

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LIMA 02138 051630Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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R 051404Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9163

UNCLAS LIMA 2138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: AREQUIPA STRIKE

REF: LIMA 2068

1. EL COMERCIO IS ONLY LIMA DAILY TO MENTION THE AREQUIPA STRIKE SITUATION (REFTEL). IT NOTES THAT WHILE THE GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES, MORE SHOPS ARE RE-OPENING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MOVING SOMEWHAT IN CITY. ITS BRIEF COVERAGE (PAGE 4) ALSO INCLUDED THE ONLY REPORT THAT THE CABINET, MEETING MARCH 3, HAD AGREED TO OPEN A NATIONAL DIALOGUE (YET ONE MORE) WITH UNION LEADERS, WOULD TAKE SOME MEASURES TOWARD RELEASING IMPRISONED UNION LEADERS AND LAWYERS, WOULD CONSIDER A PAY INCREASE FOR TEXTILE WORKERS (WHO ALONG WITH TRANSPORT WORKERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY MILITANT IN AREQUIPA), AND WOULD IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL WORKERS' FARE ON BUSES.

2. COMMENT: BY MAKING THESE PLEDGES, GOP NO DOUBT HOPES THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION OF RECURRING STRIKES AND THREATS OF STRIKES WILL BE EASED. WHETHER THESE PLEDGES CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME FURTHER UNDERMINING WORKER DISCIPLINE, AND ALSO UNDERMINING THE GOP'S ANNOUNCED AUSTERITY PROGRAM, IS ANOTHER QUESTION.

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